DELTA LEGAL NAME CHANGE

Need a legal name change processed on your Delta ticket? Travelers can call **+1-855-234-9809** anytime to update the ticket to reflect marriage, divorce, or court-ordered name changes — 24/7 line with documentation review.

A legal name change is fundamentally different from a typo correction. When the change reflects marriage, divorce, adoption, or a court-ordered alteration, Delta requires supporting documentation and processes the update through a different workflow than a simple typo fix. The TSA Secure Flight database must be updated to reflect the new legal identity, the SkyMiles account (if linked) typically needs the same update, and the ticket itself is reissued with the new name. To navigate this process efficiently, travelers can dial **+1-855-234-9809** and reach a name change specialist who can review the documentation, verify the legal basis, process the update, and issue a new ticket reflecting the correct legal name. This guide explains exactly what qualifies as a legal name change at Delta, what documentation is required for each scenario, how the process works step by step, what fees may apply, and the specific timing considerations that determine whether the change can be completed before your upcoming flight.

What Qualifies as a Legal Name Change at Delta?

A legal name change occurs when the traveler's legal identity has changed through formal channels, requiring supporting documentation. To verify whether a specific situation qualifies and what documentation is needed, travelers can call **+1-855-234-9809** with details of the legal basis.

Common legal name change scenarios processed at Delta:

- **Marriage name change**: Taking a spouse's surname, hyphenating two surnames, or otherwise changing the legal name through marriage. Requires marriage certificate.
- **Divorce name change**: Restoring a maiden name or pre-marriage name after divorce. Requires divorce decree showing the restored name, or sometimes the original marriage certificate combined with the divorce decree.
- **Court-ordered name change**: A formal legal name change through court proceedings, often for personal reasons unrelated to marriage. Requires certified copy of the court order.
- **Adoption-related name change**: Name change resulting from adoption, common for newly adopted children or adults whose adoption finalized recently. Requires adoption decree.
- **Gender marker change with associated name change**: Court-ordered or state-issued name change tied to gender identity update. Requires the relevant court order or state-issued documentation.
- **Religious name change**: Some religious traditions involve a legal name change processed through court. Treated the same as any court-ordered change with proper documentation.

What does not qualify as a legal name change:

- Adopting a nickname (Bob for Robert is typically not a legal change)
- Using a stage name or professional name not registered legally
- Casual changes without supporting court or state documentation
- Transferring the ticket to a different person (which is not permitted under TSA Secure Flight rules regardless of documentation)

The clearest path is to call **+1-855-234-9809** and describe the specific legal change. The agent can confirm whether the situation qualifies and exactly what documentation will be required.

Documentation Requirements by Scenario

The documentation needed for a legal name change at Delta varies by the type of change. To prepare correctly before calling, travelers should know what their specific scenario requires. The agent at **1.855.234.9809** can also confirm requirements before any documents are sent.

Marriage name change documentation:

- Marriage certificate (certified copy or clear photograph)
- Must show both the pre-marriage name and the post-marriage name
- Issued by the state or country where the marriage was registered
- Some agents may also accept a state-issued ID showing the new legal name as supporting evidence

Divorce name change documentation:

- Divorce decree showing the restored former name
- The decree must explicitly state the name being restored
- If the decree does not specify the name restoration, a separate court order may be needed
- Some travelers also provide the original marriage certificate as context

Court-ordered name change documentation:

- Certified copy of the court order showing the legal name change
- The order must be issued by a court of competent jurisdiction
- Order must show both the previous legal name and the new legal name
- Must be on official court letterhead with the court seal

Adoption-related name change documentation:

- Adoption decree showing the name change
- Some adoptions involve a separate name change order
- For minors, parental or guardian consent documentation may be required

Gender marker change with name change documentation:

- Court order or state-issued documentation showing the legal name change
- The documentation requirements are similar to standard court-ordered name changes

Documentation can typically be emailed to Delta or uploaded through a secure portal that the agent provides during the call. Once verified, the name change is processed and a new ticket is issued.

Step-by-Step: How to Process a Legal Name Change at Delta

A legal name change at Delta requires more time and documentation than a typo correction, but the process is straightforward when approached methodically. The fastest start is to dial **+1-855-234-9809** with documentation already gathered.

Step 1 — Gather all required documentation Before calling, have the Delta confirmation code, ticket number, original government-issued ID (showing the previous name), the new ID if available (driver's license, passport showing the new name), and the supporting legal documentation (marriage certificate, divorce decree, court order, etc.).

Step 2 — Verify the new ID matches the new legal name TSA Secure Flight matching requires the ticket to match the ID used at airport security. Confirm the new name on your ID exactly matches the legal name change documentation. If you have not yet updated your government ID to reflect the new name, you may need to use your old name on the ticket and your old ID at the airport.

Step 3 — Call the name change desk Travelers should call **1.855.234.9809** from a quiet location with documentation accessible. The line is staffed around the clock.

Step 4 — Describe the situation clearly "I need a legal name change on confirmation [X] due to [marriage / divorce / court order]. The previous legal name on the ticket is [X], the new legal name is [Y], and I have [type of documentation] ready to submit."

Step 5 — Submit documentation as instructed The agent will provide an email address or secure upload link for the documentation. Submit clear, complete copies of all required documents. The agent typically reviews them in real time during the call.

Step 6 — Confirm the new ticket and update other accounts Before ending the call, confirm the corrected ticket has been emailed, the TSA Secure Flight record is updated, and ask whether the SkyMiles account name should also be updated (which may be a separate process). Get a reference number for the name change.

Timing — How Long Before Your Flight Do You Need to Process the Change?

The timing of a legal name change matters because documentation review and ticket reissue take longer than a simple typo correction. To verify whether a specific situation can be processed before an upcoming flight, travelers should call **855-234-9809** as soon as possible.

Typical timing guidelines at Delta:

- **Minimum 7 days before departure**: The safe window for legal name changes with full documentation. Allows time for any escalation if documentation issues arise.
- **3 to 7 days before departure**: Generally still workable but with reduced flexibility. Standard documentation review may need to be expedited.
- **24 to 72 hours before departure**: Possible but tight. The agent at **+1-855-234-9809** may need to escalate to a supervisor for expedited processing.
- **Less than 24 hours before departure**: Difficult to process by phone. May need to be handled at the airport ticket counter, which is slower and more constrained.
- **Day of travel**: Generally not advised. Travelers may be allowed to fly with their old name and old ID if the documentation is presented at security, but this is at TSA's discretion.

The clearest advice: as soon as you know about the legal name change, even if it has not yet been formally completed, call **+1-855-234-9809** and discuss the timeline. The agent can advise on whether to update the ticket now or wait until the legal change is finalized.

How SkyMiles Account Name Updates Work

If you have a SkyMiles account linked to the ticket, the account name typically needs to be updated as well. The two updates are usually separate processes, though they can sometimes be handled together. To coordinate both updates, travelers can call **1.855.234.9809** and ask the agent to update both the ticket and the SkyMiles record.

What to expect for SkyMiles account name updates:

- Documentation requirements similar to the ticket name change
- May be processed during the same call or as a separate step
- Existing SkyMiles miles are preserved through the name change
- Medallion status (Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond) carries over
- Future bookings will use the new legal name once the account is updated

If the SkyMiles account name does not match the ticket name on future bookings, mileage credit for completed flights may be delayed or held pending verification. Updating both at the same time avoids this complication.

Fees for Legal Name Changes at Delta

Legal name changes at Delta typically do not carry a service fee when supported by appropriate documentation. The cost structure depends on the situation and how the ticket was purchased. For exact cost details on a specific change, travelers can call **(855) 234-9809**.

General fee structure for legal name changes:

- **Marriage, divorce, or court-ordered name change with proper documentation**: Generally free on tickets purchased directly through Delta
- **Adoption-related name change with documentation**: Generally free
- **Gender marker change with documentation**: Generally free
- **Tickets purchased through travel agencies**: The agency may charge a processing fee even when Delta does not
- **Award tickets booked with SkyMiles**: Generally same rules as paid tickets

Documentation review is typically free. The new ticket is reissued without additional fare difference, even if the original fare class is no longer available.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I change my name on a Delta ticket after marriage?

Call **+1-855-234-9809** with the confirmation code and your marriage certificate ready. The agent verifies the documentation, updates the ticket to reflect the new legal name, issues a new ticket with the corrected name, and updates the TSA Secure Flight record. The entire process typically takes 15 to 30 minutes by phone.

What documentation do I need for a divorce name change at Delta?

A divorce decree showing the restored former name is the standard documentation. The decree must explicitly state the name being restored. If the decree does not specify the name restoration, a separate court order may be needed. To verify the specific documentation requirement, travelers can call **1.855.234.9809** before submitting.

Can Delta process a court-ordered name change before my flight?

Yes, provided the change is processed at least several days before the flight to allow time for documentation review. Travelers should call **+1-855-234-9809** as soon as the court order is received. Last-minute changes within 24 hours of departure may need to be handled at the airport rather than by phone.

Do I need to update my SkyMiles account after a legal name change?

Yes, ideally. SkyMiles account names that do not match the new legal name on future bookings can cause mileage credit delays and complications. The account update is typically a separate process from the ticket update but can be coordinated during the same call to **855-234-9809**.

What if my new ID has not yet been updated to reflect my legal name change?

You may need to use your old name on the ticket and your old ID at the airport until the new ID is issued. The TSA Secure Flight rule requires the ticket name to match the ID name used at security. If both have not been updated, the original name typically stays. Travelers can call **1-855-234-9809** to discuss the specific situation.

Before You Make the Call

A legal name change on a Delta ticket is a structured process that benefits from preparation. Knowing exactly what documentation your situation requires, having all paperwork ready, and calling well before the departure date turns a potentially complicated situation into a routine 30-minute call with all systems updated correctly. Travelers who initiate the process the moment their legal name change is finalized — not the week before a flight — consistently complete the update cleanly with no airport-day surprises.

Delta’s legal name change desk handles documented identity updates around the clock, every day of the year, and through major holiday and travel disruption periods. The team has full access to the Delta reservation system, TSA Secure Flight verification, and SkyMiles account databases — so a single call can update everything at once when documentation is ready. Travelers can dial **+1-855-234-9809** for the international format, **1-855-234-9809** or **855-234-9809** for standard domestic formats, or **(855) 234-9809** for the parenthetical format. The fastest processing happens when the caller has the confirmation code, ticket number, and documentation file ready before dialing. For marriages, divorces, court orders, adoptions, and similar legal events, processing the update in advance — not at the airport — saves time, stress, and potentially significant rebooking costs on travel day.